

## Claims

- [c1] 1. A method for interfacing with a device connected to a set-top box comprising:  
accessing a graphical user interface (GUI) on a partitioned screen coupled to said set-top box;  
selecting said connected device by accessing a menu in said GUI; and  
sending a signal from said set-top box to said connected device wherein said signal causes said connected device to enter a new state.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said new state is an on state.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said new state is an off state.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said connected device is a light.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said connected device is a heater or an air conditioner.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said connected device is a media player, such as a DVD or a VCR.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said connected device is an audio player, such as a juke box or a radio.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said connected device is a security device, such as a camera.
- [c9] 9. A method for interfacing with a device connected to a set-top box comprising:  
accessing a graphical user interface (GUI) on a partitioned screen coupled to said set-top box;  
defining an event in said GUI;  
defining one or more rules related to said event in said GUI;  
determining if said event has occurred;  
applying said rules to said device with said set-top box, if said event has occurred.

- [c10] 10. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of determining further comprises using said connected device to determine the occurrence of said event.
- [c11] 11. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of determining further comprises using said set-top box to determine the occurrence of said event.
- [c12] 12. A method for interfacing with a device connected to a set-top box comprising:  
accessing a graphical user interface (GUI) on a partitioned screen coupled to said set-top box;  
defining a layout for a room in said GUI;  
defining a location for a connected device in said layout using said GUI; and  
receiving an indication in said GUI at said location in said layout, when said connected device changes a state.
- [c13] 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said connected device is a light.
- [c14] 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said state is an on state.
- [c15] 15. The method of claim 12 wherein said state is an off state.
- [c16] 16. The method of claim 11 wherein said event is a time, further comprising:  
activating a clock in said set-top box; and  
determining when said clock reaches said time.
- [c17] 17. The method of claim 10 wherein said event is a motion at a location and said connected device is a motion detector coupled to a camera, further comprising  
activating said motion detector;  
determining when said motion at said location occurs;  
activating said camera; and  
transmitting one or more images from said camera to said GUI via said set-top box.
- [c18] 18. An apparatus comprising:  
a graphical user interface (GUI) on a partitioned screen coupled to a set-top box;

a connected device selected by accessing a menu in said GUI; and  
a signal sent from said set-top box to said connected device wherein said signal causes said connected device to enter a new state.

[c19] 19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said new state is an on state.

[c20] 20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said new state is an off state.

[c21] 21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said connected device is a light.

[c22] 22. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said connected device is a heater or an air conditioner.

[c23] 23. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said connected device is a media player, such as a DVD or a VCR.

[c24] 24. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said connected device is an audio player, such as a juke box or a radio.

[c25] 25. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said connected device is a security device, such as a camera or a camera coupled to motion detectors.

[c26] 26. An apparatus comprising:  
a graphical user interface (GUI) on a partitioned screen coupled to a set-top box;  
an event defined by accessing said GUI;  
one or more rules related to said event defined by accessing said GUI;  
wherein said set-top box or a device connected to said set-top box determines if said event has occurred and, wherein said rules are applied to said device with said set-top box, if said event has occurred.

[c27] 27. An apparatus comprising:  
a graphical user interface (GUI) on a partitioned screen coupled to a set-top box;  
a layout for a room defined by accessing said GUI;  
a location for a connected device in said layout defined by accessing said GUI;  
and

an indication in said GUI received at said location in said layout, when a connected device changes a state.

- [c28] 28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said connected device is a light.
- [c29] 29. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said state is an on state.
- [c30] 30. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said state is an off state.
- [c31] 31. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said event is a time, further comprising:  
a clock activated in said set-top box; and  
a mechanism to determine when said clock reaches said time.
- [c32] 32. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said event is a motion at a location,  
further comprising  
a motion detector configured to be activated when said motion at said location  
occurs;  
said camera configured to be activated in response to said motion detector  
being activated; and  
one or more images from said camera configured to be sent to said GUI via said  
set-top box when said camera is activated.